



The Outer Space Institute
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Outer Space Institute, Item 3 (General Exchange of Views)

Madame Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

I thank the Chair for her efforts and the UNOOSA Secretariat for its work in supporting these ongoing discussions at the STSC, which the Outer Space Institute fully supports. I further thank you for providing me this opportunity to introduce the Subcommittee to the Outer Space Institute and its recent activities.

The Outer Space Institute (called the OSI) was founded in 2018 as a global network of space experts united by their commitment to highly innovative, transdisciplinary research that addresses grand challenges facing the continued use and exploration of outer space. The OSI currently is comprised of more than 45 Fellows from four continents. Through its membership comprised of natural scientists, engineers, social scientists, international lawyers, industry leaders, and policy makers, the OSI takes a transdisciplinary approach to identifying challenges, opportunities, and solutions related to outer space exploration and use, safety, and long-term sustainability.

The goals of the Outer Space Institute are closely aligned with the work of COPUOS and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. We aim to support and advance scientific and technical knowledge related to human use of the space environment and the Solar System, as well as exploration of the cosmos, by encouraging and facilitating related research, information exchange and policy discussion. In addition, we provide public education on matters related to humanity's use and exploration of outer space, through lectures and workshops and through creation and dissemination of related media. Our studies further use a variety of tools stemming from the transdisciplinary nature of the network, including measurements, simulations, data analysis, policy and legal analyses, and process tracing, among others. OSI Fellows and Junior Fellows publish their work in leading academic journals, issue public recommendations, respond to governmental calls for comment, and serve as subject matter experts in various fora.

For example, in February 2023, the OSI sponsored a Workshop on Aviation Safety and Uncontrolled Space Object Reentries with the McGill Institute of Air and Space Law (IASL) and the International Association for the Advancement of Space Safety (IAASS), which resulted in recommendations that were subsequently publicized by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). In March 2024, the OSI convened a group of experts from a variety of backgrounds, disciplines, and nations to discuss existing and foreseeable challenges arising from activities on and around the Moon. The resulting recommendations were directed toward governments, inter-governmental and nongovernmental organizations, and other space actors. As a final example, in December 2024, the Outer Space Institute published a report on Astronomy and the Proliferation of Space Objects: Strategies for Addressing Orbital Light and Spectrum Pollution.

We recognize COPUOS to be the primary global forum for discussing and providing guidance on multilateral issues dealing with challenges related to the peaceful uses of outer space, especially as the global utilization and expansion of this domain accelerates. As a Permanent Observer Organization, we look forward to working with other such organizations and hope to be able to assist the Committee and its Member States as appropriate.

Thank you all for your time and attention.